

Week of July 30 - Aug. 5, 2008

Airmen get more benefits with new G.I. Bill

Many Airmen join the Air Force to take advantage of the opportunities for higher education. Beginning Aug. 1 next year, there will be a new benefit available to almost every Airman.

Congress recently approved a new G.I. Bill, commonly called the Post-9/11 G.I. Bill, which provides even more benefits than the current Montgomery G.I. Bill.

Here are some of the details that are part of the new G.I. Bill:

TUITION -- The formula for determining the amount of tuition and fees paid will be based on the highest cost of a state-supported bachelor's degree program. A portion of tuition stipend may be transferable to family members

HOUSING -- A housing allowance will be available to veterans who have separated from the military but attend school as full-time students

BOOKS & SUPPLIES -- \$1,000 per year will be allotted for books and supplies

TUTORING -- \$100 a month for 12 months will be available for tutor programs

AVAILABILITY -- Servicemembers can take advantage of the program up to 15 years after they are honorably discharged or retire from the service.

CERTIFICATION -- An extra \$2,000 is available to pay for one license or certification test as approved by the VA

Above all, Airmen should keep in mind that many of the details are still being worked out by DoD and VA officials and that the bill doesn't take effect until Aug. 1, 2009. For more information, Airmen should visit their education office, the Air Force Portal virtual education center or the VA website.

Find Airman's Roll Call Online Here: http://www.af.mil/library/viewpoints/

Airman's Roll Call is designed for supervisors at all levels to help keep Airmen informed on current issues, clear up confusion, dispel rumors, and provide additional face-to-face communication between supervisors and their teams.